

CPYRGHT

Russians Told They Erred in Charging U.S. Bombers Violated Their Territory

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Associated Press

The United States last night denied Soviet charges that American medium bombers from West Germany had flown hundreds of miles over Russian territory early this month.

A terse note saying the charges were "in error" was delivered to the Soviet Embassy here.

State Department officials said the charges looked like part of a Moscow propaganda campaign to help fix responsibility for the Poznan riot in Poland on this country. According to this view the Soviets were seeking to show that U. S. Aircraft, which might drop propaganda material, were penetrating Soviet territory behind the Iron Curtain and

even reaching beyond Poland into the air space of Russia.

"A thorough inquiry has been conducted," the note to Russia said, "and it has been determined that no United States military planes based, or flying, in or adjacent to the European area at the time of the alleged overflights could possibly have strayed, as alleged, so far from their known flight plans, which carefully exclude such overflights as the Soviet note alleges. Therefore, the statement of the Government of the Soviet Union is in error."

The Russian protest was made on July 10 by Ambassador Georgi Zaroubin to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. It said that on July 4, July 5 and July 9, U. S. twin-engine, medium bombers had penetrated Soviet territory east of Poland up to a total of more

than 200 miles. The Russian said the planes had come from the "American zone of occupation" in Germany and remarked that the flight "coincided in time" with the visit to West Germany of Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Air Force Chief of Staff, who had been on a trip to Moscow.

The United States challenged the Soviet points. It reminded Moscow that "there is no longer an American zone of occupation in West Germany." The Soviet note, it said, presumably referred to the "Federal Republic of Germany."

The United States took Russia to task for charging that "elements" in the United States were trying to hinder improvement of relations with Russia and for "insinuating" that the flight over Russia might have been arranged by Twining.